

THE PERCY SLADEN TRUST EXPEDITION TO THE INDIAN OCEAN
IN 1905, AND 1907-1909, UNDER Mr. J. STANLEY GARDINER, M.A.

DIPTERA : TABANIDAE.

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The material belonging to this family brought back by the expedition includes representatives of only four species, one of which, however, is apparently new. That three out of the four species obtained should belong to the *Aegophagamyia-Bouvierella* group is not surprising, in view of the predominance of this group in the Malagasy Subregion.

Through the courtesy of the authorities of the Percy Sladen Trust, the type of the new species described below has been placed in the British Museum (Natural History).

PANGONIINAE.

Genus **Aegophagamyia**, Austen.

Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) ix, p. 12 (1912).

Aegophagamyia terticeps, Austen.

T. cit., p. 15.

Three ♀♀, from Astove I., 1907 ; four ♀♀ from Aldabra, 1908-9 (*J. C. F. Fryer*).

The type and para-type of this species, in the British Museum (Natural History), are from Astove I. (*P. R. Dupont*).

In the female sex, at any rate, this species bears a superficial resemblance to *Tabanus albipectus*, Big., for which on casual inspection it might easily be mistaken. The four specimens noted above as having been taken in Aldabra bear the same number as that attached to the examples of *Tabanus albipectus* collected in the same island, by Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, showing that the field note printed below under the heading *T. albipectus* must be taken as applying to the present species also.

Genus **Bouvierella**, Surcouf.

Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat., Paris, 1909, p. 176.

Bouvierella alluaudi, Giglio-Tos.

Sciome alluaudi, Giglio-Tos, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, lxiv, p. 357 (1895).

Of this species, originally described from specimens from the Seychelles Is., the present collection includes no fewer than twenty-two examples, as follows:— One ♂, one ♀, from Mahé, Seychelles, v-xii. 1905 (*J. S. Gardiner*); eleven ♂♂, five ♀♀, from Mahé, Seychelles (5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, from the Forêt Noire district, x-xi. 1908, and 6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, from Cascade Estate, at 800 to 1,000 feet or more above sea-level, 1908-9); one ♀, from Félicité, Seychelles, xii. 1908; 2 ♂♂, from Praslin, Seychelles, xi. 1908; and one ♀ from Cosmoledo Is., 1907 (*H. P. T.*).

Bouvierella inornata, sp. n.

♀.—Length (2 specimens) 10 to 11.2 mm. ; width of head 3.25 to 3.6 mm. ; width of front at vertex 0.4 mm., at lower extremity 0.25 mm. ; length of wing 9 to 10 mm.

Sombrely coloured species, entirely devoid of markings ; ground-colour of dorsum of thorax drab or dusky drab, that of dorsum of abdomen greyish fuscous ; front in ♀ narrow, slightly narrower at lower extremity than at vertex, about six times as long as its width at upper end ; wings, especially portion beyond basal and anal cells, strongly suffused with brownish, stigma well marked ; coxae drab, legs otherwise blackish brown, extreme tips of femora, at least of those of front pair, ochraceous buff.*

Head : front, subcallus, face, sides of face and jowls drab, occiput smoke-grey ; vertex clothed with minute, erect, blackish-brown hair, sides of face with ochraceous-brownish hair, basi-occipital region with longer fine brownish hair ; *frontal callus* represented by a fine, dark, median line, commencing at some distance above level of lower inner angle of eyes, and not reaching anterior ocellus ; *proboscis*, including labella, narrow and elongate, total length of proboscis about two-thirds of that of head ; proximal joint of *palpi* dark brown or brownish, terminal joint similarly coloured on outer surface, narrow, curved, elongate and very slender ; *antennae* dark brown, first and second joints clothed above and below with short, blackish hair, expanded portion of third joint ovate or elongate ovate when viewed in profile, without any angle on upper margin, annulate portion of third joint narrow, curved and elongate. *Thorax* : dorsum clothed with short, recumbent brownish hair, which in front of prescutellar groove may be mixed with paler hair, scutellum bearing longer brownish hair, or a mixture of brownish and ochraceous hair ; pleurae and pectus agreeing in coloration with dorsum, and clothed with fine, brownish hair. *Abdomen* : dorsum clothed with short, appressed dark brown hair, venter agreeing with dorsum in coloration and hairy covering. *Wings* : lengths (relative as well as actual) of stalks of first and fourth posterior cells variable in different specimens ; stigma elongate, dark brown. *Squamae* light drab or drab-grey, borders drab. *Halteres* : knobs clove-brown or blackish brown, stalks paler (cinnamon-buff). *Legs* sparsely clothed with short or minute dark brown or blackish hair.

Seychelles Is. Type from Silhouette (plateau of Mare aux Cochons, about 1,000 feet, ix. 1908) ; a paratype from Mahé (Cascade Estate, 800–1,000 feet), 1908–9.

Bouvierella inornata is distinguishable from all previously described species belonging to this genus, *inter alia*, by its uniformly sombre coloration, the ground-colour of the thorax and abdomen not being relieved by either lighter or darker markings. In particular, it is distinguished from *B. brunnea*, Surcouf (Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat., 1909, no. 4, p. 179), a species found in Madagascar, by its smaller size, and by the more uniformly dusky coloration of the body and legs, the dorsum of the thorax not being longitudinally striped with grey, and the legs not being reddish yellow, clothed with golden pile.

In the length and slenderness of the proboscis, including the labella, the species just described agrees rather with *Aegophagamyia*, Austen, with which it constitutes in this respect an annectent link ; as regards antennal characters and the shape of the first posterior cell, however, the species seems more correctly placed under Surcouf's genus.

* For names and illustrations of colours, see Ridgway, "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature" (Washington, D. C. : published by the Author, 1912).

TABANINAE.

Genus **Tabanus**, Linn.

Fauna Suecica, Ed. ii, p. 462 (1761).

Tabanus albipectus, Bigot.*T. albipectus*, Bigot, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, (3) vii, p. 125, pl. ix, fig. 2 (1859).

Twenty-one specimens, from various localities as follows:—One ♀, from Poivre Is., Amirante Is., v-xii. 1905 (*J. S. Gardiner*); one ♀, from I. des Roches, Amirante Is., 15. x. 1905; one ♀, from Aldabra, 1907 (*H. P. T.*); 15 ♀♀, from Aldabra, 1908-9 (*J. C. F. Fryer*); one ♂, two ♀♀, from Long Island and Mahé, Seychelles (Cascade, about 1,000 feet), 1908-9.

A comparison of the foregoing material with the type of the species, taken in Madagascar by Dr. Coquerel and now in the British Museum, places the correctness of the identification beyond doubt. In addition to the type of *T. albipectus*, the National Collection includes a ♂ and ♀ from Astove I. and Aldabra respectively (*P. R. Dupont*), and a ♀ from Pigaduli, Zanzibar, "on goat," 14.x.1912 (*Dr. W. M. Aders*).

To the specimens from Aldabra in the present series, taken by Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, the following interesting field-note was attached:—"Most numerous in December [1908]: attack sea-turtles, biting them between the plates on the back: apparently attack them in water as well as on land. Were seen flying all over the lagoon, and also some way out at sea. They fly strongly, and bite man also." As already explained, this note must be taken as applying equally to *Aegophagamyia terticeps*, Austen (*vide supra*). With reference to the biting of reptiles by blood-sucking Diptera, it may be remembered that the typical series of *Tabanus crocodilinus*, Austen, was taken on a crocodile in Nyasaland (*cf.* Austen, Bull. Ent. Res., ii, p. 285 (1912)), while in Uganda, as is well known, *Glossina palpalis* feeds readily upon crocodiles and monitors.
